



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

01-0562
SDMS # 43054

April 9, 2003

Mr. Andrew T. Silfer
Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
100 Woodlawn Ave.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Conditional Approval of General Electric's January 2002 "Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for the Phase 2, Group 2 Floodplain Properties Adjacent to the 1 ½- Mile Reach of the Housatonic River," GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, MA

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval for the pre-design investigation activities for the Phase 2 Group 2 (hereinafter "Phase 2") Properties described in the above-referenced "Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for Floodplain Properties Adjacent to the 1 ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River" (PDIWP). The PDIWP is subject to terms and conditions specified in the Consent Decree (CD) that was entered into U.S. District Court on October 27, 2002.

The General Electric Company (GE) has recently submitted a letter to EPA, dated March 11, 2003, correcting a table in the PDIWP relating to the Phase 2 properties and proposing to submit a Phase 2-specific Work Plan Addendum for these properties by July 15, 2003. Subsequently, GE, EPA and WESTON had a meeting on March 20, 2002 during which numerous issues regarding these Phase 2 properties were discussed. Rather than preparing an Addendum for the Phase 2 properties, if GE agrees to the conditions listed below, GE shall submit a letter within seven (7) days of the date of this letter, addressing the conditions listed below and confirming the sampling that will be conducted at the Phase 2 properties.

Pursuant to Paragraph 73 of the CD, EPA, after consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), approves the above-referenced submittal, as it relates to the Phase 2 properties, subject to the conditions presented in this letter.

General Conditions:

1. GE shall coordinate the sampling of the properties described in the PDIWP with EPA's 1 ½ Mile Reach Removal Action. In its above-mentioned letter, GE shall propose, for EPA's review and approval, a schedule for such sampling that provides for the performance of such sampling. The sampling will be completed prior to the commencement of EPA's construction activities associated with the 1 ½ Mile Reach Removal Action.

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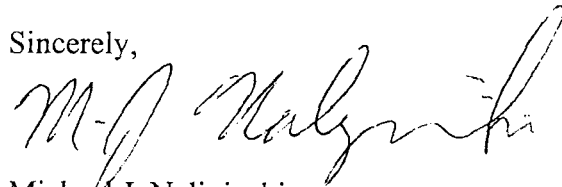
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2. Since submittal of GE's PDIWP in January 2002, EPA has updated its project database to include samples that had been collected by EPA's START contractor in 1999 from four 1 ½-mile Removal Action Area (RAA) floodplain properties (I8-4-2, -3, -4; I8-4-1; I7-2-43, and I7-3-10). This EPA data was provided to GE/BB&L in electronic format on March 14, 2002. GE shall update the data tables and Figure 4-3 to include such data for submission with the Pre-Investigation Design Report.
3. Parcels I8-4-1 and I8-4-2,3,4. For the response required under the federal Consent Decree, GE shall perform additional sampling, beyond the sampling performed for the 1995 state MCP response action, to define the 1 to X foot depth interval, where "X" equals the maximum depth where PCBs are detected to a maximum depth of 15 feet. Also, GE shall sample these parcels for Appendix IX +3 constituents. In order to minimize the number of accesses to these parcels, GE may sample for both PCBs and Appendix IX + 3 either during the PCB sampling effort for the balance of the properties in this Phase or when GE remobilizes to conduct any Appendix IX + 3 sampling for the other properties in this Phase. The PCB and Appendix IX +3 sampling for parcels I8-4-1 and I8-4-2,3,4 are requirement under the Statement of Work for Removal Actions Outside the River (Appendix E to the Consent Decree) for this federal action.
4. Within seven (7) days of this letter, GE shall submit a letter which adequately addresses the conditions stated in this correspondence and confirms the sampling to be conducted at the Phase 2 properties prior to the initiation of 1 ½ mile activities.
5. Parcels I8-4-201 & I8-4-202: PCBs were detected in the 1- to 2.5-foot depth intervals at five locations in the southern corner of the property. No deeper sampling was conducted at these locations. GE shall advance an additional boring at a location approximately 10 feet south of location I8-4-5-9, near the corner boundaries of the three parcels I8-4-2, -3, & -4, and I8-4-7, and shall collect subsurface samples for PCB analysis, consistent with the protocol proposed for collection and PCB analysis of subsurface samples from other borings on this parcel, to characterize the PCB concentrations in the 0- to X-foot depth interval. GE shall collect sufficient material at the aforementioned sample to enable WESTON Solutions to obtain a split sample.
6. Following the completion of the PCB sampling at the Phase 2 properties, GE shall evaluate the need for and extent of Appendix IX + 3 sampling at this group of properties, and shall submit that evaluation, together with a proposal and schedule for such sampling if warranted, to EPA for review and approval in a letter report. GE shall plan to sample for Appendix IX +3 prior to the initiation of 1 ½ mile reach construction activities on these properties. At that same time GE shall propose, for EPA review and approval, a schedule for the submission of the Pre Design Investigation Report (PDI) for these properties.

The EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling in the areas subject to the PDIWP and/or require additional sampling or Response Actions, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree. If there is any conflict between the Performance Standards as described in the PDIWP and as set forth in the Consent Decree and/or Statement of Work for Removal Actions Outside the River (Appendix E to the Consent Decree), the Consent Decree and Statement of Work shall control.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 918-1268.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Nalipinski
GE Facility Project Manager

cc:	Richard Gates,	GE
	James Bieke,	Shea & Gardner
	James Nuss,	BBL
	Susan Steenstrup,	MDEP
	Judy Morris,	Weston✓
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	Bryan Olson,	EPA
	Rose Howell,	EPA
	Holly Inglis,	EPA
	Tim Conway,	EPA
	John Kilborn,	EPA
	Property Owner	Parcel I8-4-1
	Property Owner	Parcel I8-4-2,-3, and -4
	Property Owner	Parcel I8-4-6
	Property Owner	Parcel I8-4-7
	Property Owner	Parcel I8-4-201
	Property Owner	Parcel I8-4-202
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